

LITERARY ITEMS.

A new club, "The Decemviri," has just been established in London. As its title implies, the number of members is limited to ten. It is a representative club, literature supplying a well-known poet, science an eminent savant, the army a general officer, society a member of a famous historic house, &c. We understand that among the members are the Hon. T. B. Macaulay, Dr. Richardson, several local physicians, Mr. Swinburne, Mr. Hall, Mr. Fawcett, author of "Literature and its Professors," and Mr. Franklin, editor of *The Law Review*. In the event of a vacancy, no candidate is to be admitted unless personally known to each of the decemviri.

The Paris Exhibition is developing a peculiar species of literature, the last edition to which is a work professing to give the biographies of the exhibitors. This is being published in numbers, under the editorship of M. N. Galois, and it promises to be written by "a society of literary men," whose names, however, do not appear. "In the preface they say, 'We have chosen from among the works of the Paris Exhibition, those which will be of interest to the majority of laborers.' The Paris Exhibition is the lesson of the present and the instruction of the future." The society of literary men—it is comforting to have this—do not consist of the Presidents and Collegiate Department, &c., &c., who have turned their thoughts to the industrial heroes of the day, whose campaigns they will describe. The generals, captains, and simple soldiers of the "grandes armées industrielles" are aped in the reviewed alphabetical terms, and informed that they are reviewed alphabetically in a language of their own. For the present, they will be taken as they come."

The Boston Transcript has the following notice of Mrs. Sarah Alden Ripley, who died at Concord, Mass., July 26, a woman distinguished in the literary society of Massachusetts for her rare intellectual gifts, the variety and depth of her erudition, the constancy of her friendship with many of the most eminent men of that State, and the singular modesty which drew a veil over the shining endowments and acquisitions that would otherwise have given her the inevitable celebrity which was reprobated to her nature:

The loving and respectful temptation to write as we would wish of one so deserving of unequalled literary eminence did not yield to, remembering, as we did, the course she had pursued, with what simplicity she bore herself, notwithstanding her rare endowments and attainments. As a scholar she had but few equals in the largeness and accuracy of her learning. Her mind was set upon the study of the improvement of society, its direct aims for knowledge, and that noble curiosity which sought to gather up the love of ages.

It would be difficult to say, with which of the many fields of literature, philosophy, and science, she had the deepest and most comprehensive and analytic penetrating intellect, and its remarkable power of instinctive communication. The many who were her pupils, and the many more who were privy to her studies, will listen to her kind and kindly hospitality and the warmth and cheer with her fearless, liberal, and beautiful mind, in which there was much of grace as of strength; so much of delicacy as of force; brilliant and glowing when dealing with the dryest details, and yet glowing with a warmth of tenderness as of unwearied ardor.

Her life was a quiet, simple, and benevolent existence, and a rich and varied culture.

And yet with what modesty and gentleless she always bore herself, and how easily she could command the highest respect and admiration of all the duties and in the relations of life! She was a learned woman, and yet nothing was foreign to her. The gentlest and sweetest qualities of the emotive nature were never for a moment chilled; and her daily walk and conversation were full of tenderness as of unwearied ardor.

She will be missed and mourned by childhood and youth, and by all who knew her, for her gentle and venerable age; so complete and harmonious was her development, and so all-embracing her interest in the welfare of others, far beyond the time when the possibilities often seemed to be quiet and uneventful. Her quiet and simple character will live with us, after which time Miss H. can be seen at her residence in New Haven.

IRVING INSTITUTE, NEW YORK.—A Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies, Year will commence Sept. 1. For circulars apply to B. S. ROWE, M. A. Principal.

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